

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6475

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE

REF: A) MANILA 16412; MANILA 2874

1. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE WILLIAM BUTLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS, COMMENTED TO US THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MALAISE WITHIN THE AMERICAN LEGAL COMMUNITY OVER THE CHOICE OF MANILA AS THE SITE OF THE WPTL CONFERENCE NEXT AUGUST. OPPOSITION TO MANILA SITE BY SOME AMERICAN WPTLC MEMBERS IS FOUNDED ON THE GOP'S IMPERFECT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. BUTLER EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS FULLY AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

2. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO TAKE A READING ON THE ABOVE WITH CHARLES RHYNE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. FROM HERE WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE EXTENT AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE REPORTED OPPOSITION AND TO ESTIMATE WHAT FORMS THIS MIGHT TAKE--E.G. BOYCOTTS, PUBLIC STATEMENTS, ETC. IT OCCURS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH MIGHT BE RATHER CAREFULLY EXPLOITED TO INDUCE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GOP'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. WE SUSPECT THAT IN THE TIME PRIOR TO THE AUGUST CONFERENCE MARCOS WILL CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME STEPS TO ENHANCE THE GOP'S IMAGE IN THE
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HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. MARCOS APPARENTLY WANTS A SUCCESSFUL WPTL CONFERENCE IN MANILA FOR THE REASONS CITED REF A.

IF THE WORD SHOULD GET BACK TO MARCOS THAT THIS SUCCESS MIGHT BE IN JEOPARDY, WE COULD SEE A MORE SERIOUS EFFORT ON HIS PART TO CLEAN UP THE STABLES HERE.

SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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